



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1988

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THE FOLLOWING IS A JOINT PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, AND THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION:

NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE EXCHANGE FUND  
AND THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION

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THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH OF HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION (HSBC) ANNOUNCE THAT THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN AGREED BETWEEN HSBC AS THE MANAGEMENT BANK OF THE CLEARING HOUSE OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS AND THE EXCHANGE FUND. THE PURPOSE OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS IS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE USE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND, TO EXERCISE MORE EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE OVER THE AVAILABILITY AND PRICE OF MONEY IN THE INTERBANK MARKET AND THUS TO ASSIST IT BETTER TO MAINTAIN EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM. THE EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS.

2. THE DETAILS OF THE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) HSBC WILL MAINTAIN A HONG KONG DOLLAR ACCOUNT (THE "ACCOUNT") WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND;
- (B) HSBC WILL AIM TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE (THE "BALANCE") IN THAT ACCOUNT AT NOT LESS THAN THE NET CLEARING BALANCE OF THE REST OF THE BANKING SYSTEM;
- (C) NO INTEREST WILL BE PAID ON CREDIT BALANCES IN THE ACCOUNT;
- (D) IF THE BALANCE FALLS SHORT OF THE NET CLEARING BALANCE, HSBC WILL PAY INTEREST ON THE SHORTFALL TO THE EXCHANGE FUND;
- (E) IF THE NET CLEARING BALANCE IS IN DEBIT, HSBC WILL PAY INTEREST ON THE DEBIT AMOUNT TO THE EXCHANGE FUND;

/(F) UP TO .....

- (F) UP TO A CERTAIN AMOUNT, THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE BY HSBC WILL BE BLR OR HIBOR, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER. BEYOND THAT AMOUNT, THE INTEREST RATE PAYABLE WILL BE 3% OVER BLR OR HIBOR, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER. IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, AN ALTERNATIVE RATE MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH HSBC;
- (G) THE EXCHANGE FUND WILL USE THE ACCOUNT, AT ITS DISCRETION, TO EFFECT SETTLEMENT OF ITS HONG KONG DOLLAR TRANSACTIONS WITH HSBC;
- (H) THE EXCHANGE FUND WILL ALSO USE THE ACCOUNT, AT ITS DISCRETION, TO EFFECT SETTLEMENT OF ITS HONG KONG DOLLAR TRANSACTIONS WITH OTHER LICENSED BANKS.

3. WITH THE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS, THE EXCHANGE FUND WILL IN EFFECT BECOME THE ULTIMATE PROVIDER OF LIQUIDITY TO THE INTERBANK MARKET. IT WILL BE CAPABLE OF INFLUENCING MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY THE AVAILABILITY AND THE PRICE OF MONEY IN THE INTERBANK MARKET AND WILL BE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO MAINTAIN EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM.

4. THE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE DAY TO DAY OPERATION OF LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG, OTHER THAN HSBC, WHICH, IN ADDITION TO BECOMING MORE ACTIVE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HAVING TO MAINTAIN EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN THE BALANCE AND THE NET CLEARING BALANCE, WILL BE ABLE TO DIRECT ITS OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE MONEY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS MORE TOWARDS ITS OWN COMMERCIAL REQUIREMENTS.

5. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON MONDAY, 18 JULY 1988. THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS HAS TODAY SENT OUT A PAPER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL THE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS TO ALL LICENSED BANKS. A COPY OF THE PAPER IS ATTACHED.

PRESS ENQUIRIES:

HSBC		MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH	
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15 JULY 1988

FROM: SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS

TO : CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF ALL LICENSED BANKS

CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS

MEMBERS OF THE EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE BANKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ASSOCIATION

NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN  
THE EXCHANGE FUND AND THE HONGKONG AND  
SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION

INTRODUCTION

THIS PAPER DESCRIBES NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS TO BE ENTERED INTO ON MONDAY 18 JULY 1988, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AND THE AGREEMENT OF THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION (HSBC), BETWEEN THE EXCHANGE FUND AND HSBC AS THE MANAGEMENT BANK OF THE CLEARING HOUSE OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS (HKAB). MEMBERS OF THE EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND HAVE UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED THE INTRODUCTION OF THESE NEW ARRANGEMENTS. THE PAPER ALSO EXPLAINS HOW THE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS ARE TO BE OPERATED.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS IS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE USE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND, TO EXERCISE MORE EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE OVER THE AVAILABILITY AND PRICE OF MONEY IN THE INTERBANK MARKET AND THUS TO ASSIST IT BETTER TO MAINTAIN EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM. UNDER THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, THERE CAN BE PERVERSE SIDE-EFFECTS WHICH REDUCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ACTION BY GOVERNMENT AND HSBC TO INFLUENCE INTEREST RATES AND THE LEVEL OF LIQUIDITY IN THE INTERBANK MARKET FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY.

/THE INTERBANK .....

## THE INTERBANK MARKET

3. EACH LICENSED BANK IN HONG KONG MAINTAINS AN ACCOUNT, EITHER WITH HSBC, THE MANAGEMENT BANK OF THE CLEARING HOUSE OF HKAB, OR WITH A SETTLEMENT BANK (AS DEFINED IN RULES RELATING TO THE CLEARING HOUSE OF HKAB) WHICH IN TURN MAINTAINS AN ACCOUNT WITH HSBC, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLEARING HONG KONG DOLLAR CHEQUES AND FOR SETTLING INTERBANK TRANSACTIONS DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS. BANKS WITH SURPLUS HONG KONG DOLLAR BALANCES ON THEIR CLEARING ACCOUNTS LEND THOSE FUNDS, THROUGH THE INTERBANK MARKET, TO BANKS WHICH ARE SHORT OF FUNDS. DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES AND LARGE CORPORATE CUSTOMERS ALSO MAKE USE OF THE INTERBANK MARKET, BUT SETTLEMENT IS EFFECTED THROUGH THEIR ACCOUNTS WITH LICENSED BANKS. INTERBANK INTEREST RATES ARE DETERMINED BY THE FORCES OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR FUNDS IN THAT MARKET.

4. AT PRESENT, HSBC, AS THE MANAGEMENT BANK OF THE CLEARING HOUSE, DOES NOT ITSELF HAVE A CLEARING ACCOUNT. SETTLEMENT OF HONG KONG DOLLAR TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN HSBC AND OTHER BANKS ARE EFFECTED THROUGH HSBC CREDITING OR DEBITING, AS THE CASE MAY BE, THE CLEARING ACCOUNTS MAINTAINED BY THESE BANKS OR BY THEIR SETTLEMENT BANKS WITH HSBC. THE EXCHANGE FUND IS A CUSTOMER OF HSBC AND OF A NUMBER OF OTHER BANKS. THESE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE CERTAIN CONSEQUENCES ON HOW THE SUPPLY OF MONEY IN THE INTERBANK MARKET IS DETERMINED AND HOW INTERBANK INTEREST RATES BEHAVE. SPECIFICALLY, THE SUPPLY OF HONG KONG DOLLARS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET INCREASES AND INTERBANK INTEREST RATES EASE WHEN:

- (A) HSBC BUYS FOREIGN CURRENCY OR OTHER ASSETS FROM ANOTHER BANK, OR FROM CUSTOMERS BANKING WITH ANOTHER BANK, WITH HONG KONG DOLLARS; OR
- (B) HSBC LENDS HONG KONG DOLLARS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET; OR
- (C) A CUSTOMER OF HSBC PAYS HONG KONG DOLLARS FROM HIS ACCOUNT WITH, OR CREDIT FACILITY MADE AVAILABLE BY, HSBC TO ANOTHER PERSON BANKING WITH ANOTHER BANK.

SIMILARLY, THE SUPPLY OF HONG KONG DOLLARS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET DECREASES AND INTERBANK INTEREST RATES FIRM WHEN:

- (A) HSBC SELLS FOREIGN CURRENCY OR OTHER ASSETS TO ANOTHER BANK, OR TO CUSTOMERS BANKING WITH ANOTHER BANK, FOR HONG KONG DOLLARS; OR

/(B) HSBC BORROWS .....

- (B) HSBC BORROWS HONG KONG DOLLARS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET; OR
- (C) A CUSTOMER OF HSBC ACCEPTS HONG KONG DOLLARS FOR HIS ACCOUNT WITH, OR FOR REDUCING A CREDIT FACILITY MADE AVAILABLE BY, HSBC FROM ANOTHER PERSON BANKING WITH ANOTHER BANK.

5. THUS WHEN THE EXCHANGE FUND, AS A CUSTOMER OF HSBC, CARRIES OUT FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS TO STABILIZE THE EXCHANGE RATE, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH ACTION CAN STAND TO BE GRADUALLY ERODED.

6. TO ILLUSTRATE, CONSIDER THE CASE WHEN, FOR WHATEVER REASON, THE EXCHANGE RATE IS WEAKENING AWAY FROM 7.80. ARBITRAGE BETWEEN THE FIXED-RATE MARKET FOR HONG KONG DOLLAR BANK NOTES AND THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET, OR THE THREAT OF IT, WILL CONTRIBUTE TO CONTAINING THE DEVIATION FROM 7.80. AT THE SAME TIME AND WORKING IN THE SAME DIRECTION, THE CORRECT MONETARY POLICY RESPONSE MUST BE TO KEEP CONDITIONS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET TIGHT AND INTERBANK INTEREST RATES HIGH RELATIVE TO THOSE OF THE US DOLLAR. THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY THE EXCHANGE FUND SELLING US DOLLARS FOR HONG KONG DOLLARS OR BORROWING HONG KONG DOLLARS, BOTH THROUGH HSBC. IF, HOWEVER, OTHER CUSTOMERS OF HSBC ARE AT THE SAME TIME SWITCHING OUT OF HONG KONG DOLLARS INTO US DOLLARS AND TO THE EXTENT THAT HSBC COVERS THE SHORT US DOLLAR POSITION BY RECOUPING THE CORRESPONDING AMOUNT FROM THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET, THE TIGHTNESS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET WILL INADVERTENTLY BE RELIEVED. OTHER CUSTOMERS OF HSBC MAY ALSO BE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE HIGH HONG KONG DOLLAR INTERBANK INTEREST RATES AVAILABLE BY RUNNING DOWN HKAB-TYPE DEPOSITS WITH, OR DRAWING DOWN BEST LENDING RATE (BLR) FACILITIES MADE AVAILABLE BY, HSBC AND PLACING THOSE FUNDS WITH OTHER BANKS IN THE FORM OF DEPOSITS WHICH ATTRACT INTERBANK INTEREST RATES. THIS AGAIN WILL UNHELPFULLY RELIEVE TIGHTNESS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET.

#### NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS

7. SUCH EROSION IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE EXCHANGE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY IS CLEARLY UNDESIRABLE. THE GOVERNMENT AND HSBC HAVE BOTH RECOGNISED THIS FOR SOMETIME. NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE EXCHANGE FUND AND HSBC, WHICH EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATE THIS SHORTCOMING, HAVE THEREFORE BEEN DEVELOPED. THE DETAILS OF THE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

/(A) HSBC MAINTAINS .....

- (A) HSBC MAINTAINS A HONG KONG DOLLAR ACCOUNT (THE "ACCOUNT") WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND;
- (B) HSBC AIMS TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE (THE "BALANCE") IN THAT ACCOUNT NO LESS THAN THE NET CLEARING BALANCE ("NCB") OF THE REST OF THE BANKING SYSTEM;
- (C) NO INTEREST IS PAID ON CREDIT BALANCES IN THE ACCOUNT;
- (D) IF THE BALANCE FALLS SHORT OF THE NCB, HSBC PAYS INTEREST ON THE SHORTFALL TO THE EXCHANGE FUND;
- (E) IF NCB IS IN DEBIT, HSBC PAYS INTEREST ON THE DEBIT AMOUNT TO THE EXCHANGE FUND;
- (F) UP TO A CERTAIN AMOUNT, THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE BY HSBC UNDER (D) AND (E) IS BLR OR HONG KONG INTERBANK OFFERED RATE (HIBOR), WHICHEVER IS HIGHER. BEYOND THAT AMOUNT, THE INTEREST RATE PAYABLE IS 3% OVER BLR OR HIBOR, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER. IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, AN ALTERNATIVE RATE MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH HSBC;
- (G) THE EXCHANGE FUND WILL USE THE ACCOUNT, AT ITS DISCRETION, TO EFFECT SETTLEMENT OF ITS HONG KONG DOLLAR TRANSACTIONS WITH HSBC;
- (H) THE EXCHANGE FUND WILL ALSO USE THE ACCOUNT, AT ITS DISCRETION, TO EFFECT SETTLEMENT OF ITS HONG KONG DOLLAR TRANSACTIONS WITH OTHER LICENSED BANKS;
- (I) IN CASE OF (H), THE EXCHANGE FUND WILL EITHER CREDIT OR DEBIT THE ACCOUNT AND HSBC WILL CORRESPONDINGLY CREDIT OR DEBIT THE CLEARING ACCOUNTS OF BANKS DEALING WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND.

8. ALONG WITH THESE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE EXCHANGE FUND AND HSBC, THE TREASURY WILL ALSO MAINTAIN A HONG KONG DOLLAR ACCOUNT WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND WHERE MONEY TRANSFERRED FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE TO THE EXCHANGE FUND IN RETURN FOR INTEREST BEARING DEBT CERTIFICATES WILL BE ACCOUNTED FOR. THIS PROVIDES AN ADDITIONAL MECHANISM FOR THE EXCHANGE FUND TO INFLUENCE THE SUPPLY OF MONEY IN THE INTERBANK MARKET.

9. THUS UNDER THE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS, THE SUPPLY OF HONG KONG DOLLARS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET WILL INCREASE AND INTERBANK INTEREST RATES WILL EASE WHEN:

- (A) THE EXCHANGE FUND BUYS FOREIGN CURRENCY WITH HONG KONG DOLLARS; OR
- (B) THE EXCHANGE FUND LENDS HONG KONG DOLLARS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET; OR
- (C) DEBT CERTIFICATES ARE REDEEMED FROM THE TREASURY AND THE BALANCE IN THE TREASURY'S ACCOUNT WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND IS REDUCED.

SIMILARLY, THE SUPPLY OF HONG KONG DOLLARS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET WILL DECREASE AND INTERBANK INTEREST RATES WILL FIRM WHEN:

- (A) THE EXCHANGE FUND SELLS FOREIGN CURRENCY FOR HONG KONG DOLLARS; OR
- (B) THE EXCHANGE FUND BORROWS HONG KONG DOLLARS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET; OR
- (C) DEBT CERTIFICATES ARE ISSUED TO THE TREASURY AND THE BALANCE IN THE TREASURY'S ACCOUNT WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND IS INCREASED.

#### PRACTICAL EFFECTS OF THE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS

10. UNDER THE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS, THE EXCHANGE FUND WILL IN EFFECT BE THE ULTIMATE PROVIDER OF LIQUIDITY TO THE INTERBANK MARKET. IT WILL BE CAPABLE OF INFLUENCING MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY THE AVAILABILITY AND THE PRICE OF MONEY IN THE INTERBANK MARKET AND IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO MAINTAIN EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM.

11. THE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE DAY TO DAY OPERATION OF LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG, OTHER THAN HSBC. THOSE WHICH HAVE HAD, OR ARE LIKELY TO HAVE, DEALINGS WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE AWARE THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE ESTABLISHED PRACTICE FOR EFFECTING HONG KONG DOLLAR SETTLEMENTS WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND AS A CUSTOMER, THE EXCHANGE FUND MAY CHOOSE TO EFFECT SETTLEMENT THROUGH REQUESTING HSBC TO CREDIT OR DEBIT, AS THE CASE MAY BE, THEIR CLEARING ACCOUNTS MAINTAINED AT HSBC. THE EXCHANGE FUND WILL AT THE SAME TIME CREDIT OR DEBIT THE ACCOUNT AS APPROPRIATE.

12. THUS WHEN THE EXCHANGE FUND SELLS US\$100 MILLION TO, SAY, THE STANDARD CHARTERED BANK AT 7.85, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR SETTLEMENT MAY BE EFFECTED THROUGH:

- (A) THE EXCHANGE FUND DEBITING THE ACCOUNT HK\$785 MILLION; AND
- (B) HSBC DEBITING STANDARD CHARTERED'S CLEARING ACCOUNT WITH HSBC HK\$785 MILLION.

THE MONETARY EFFECTS OF THIS TRANSACTION WILL BE THAT, OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL, BOTH THE BALANCE AND NCB WILL BE REDUCED BY HK\$785 MILLION. INTERBANK INTEREST RATES WILL AS A RESULT (AND BY DESIGN) BE DRIVEN HIGHER, THUS GIVING SUPPORT TO THE EXCHANGE RATE.

13. ALTERNATIVELY, IN RESPONSE TO THE EXCHANGE RATE BEING AT 7.85, HONG KONG DOLLARS MAY BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE TO THE EXCHANGE FUND, TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE ARE SURPLUS GENERAL REVENUE BALANCES IN THE BANKING SYSTEM. ASSUMING THAT HK\$500 MILLION IS TRANSFERRED FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE TO THE EXCHANGE FUND AND THE TREASURY MEETS THAT DEMAND BY WITHDRAWING A HK\$300 MILLION DEPOSIT FROM THE HANG SENG BANK AND HK\$200 MILLION DEPOSIT FROM THE HANG LUNG BANK, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR SETTLEMENTS WILL BE EFFECTED AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) THE EXCHANGE FUND CREDITS TREASURY'S ACCOUNT WITH IT BY HK\$500 MILLION AND ISSUES A DEBT CERTIFICATE OF THAT AMOUNT TO THE TREASURY;
- (B) THE EXCHANGE FUND DEBITS THE ACCOUNT HK\$500 MILLION;
- (C) HSBC DEBITS HANG SENG BANK'S CLEARING ACCOUNT WITH ITSELF HK\$300 MILLION;
- (D) HSBC DEBITS HANG LUNG BANK'S CLEARING ACCOUNT WITH ITSELF HK\$200 MILLION;
- (E) HANG SENG BANK DEBITS THE TREASURY'S DEPOSIT ACCOUNT WITH ITSELF HK\$300 MILLION; AND
- (F) HANG LUNG BANK DEBITS THE TREASURY'S DEPOSIT ACCOUNT WITH ITSELF HK\$200 MILLION.

THE MONETARY EFFECTS OF THIS TRANSACTION WILL BE THAT, OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL, BOTH THE BALANCE AND NCB WILL BE REDUCED BY HK\$500 MILLION. INTERBANK INTEREST RATES WILL AGAIN BE DRIVEN HIGHER, GIVING SUPPORT TO THE EXCHANGE RATE.

14. THE UNDERTAKING BY HSBC TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE ON THE ACCOUNT NO LESS THAN THE NCB OF THE REST OF THE BANKING SYSTEM MEANS THAT IT WILL HAVE IN EFFECT CREATED FOR ITSELF A CLEARING ACCOUNT. THUS, WHEN HSBC PURCHASES FOR ITS CUSTOMERS US DOLLARS WITH HONG KONG DOLLARS, NCB WILL INCREASE. SO THAT THIS WILL NOT RESULT IN THE BALANCE FALLING SHORT OF NCB, IT WILL BE IN THE INTEREST OF HSBC TO FUND THE US DOLLAR PURCHASE BY BORROWING HONG KONG DOLLARS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET, IN A MANNER IDENTICAL TO THAT IN WHICH ANY OTHER LICENSED BANK WOULD CURRENTLY ACT. IN DOING SO, THE SUPPLY OF HONG KONG DOLLARS IN THE INTERBANK MARKET WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

#### MARKET INFORMATION

15. GIVEN THE MONETARY EFFECTS OF EXCHANGE FUND OPERATIONS UNDER THE NEW ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS, IT WILL BE USEFUL TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MONEY MARKETS TO HAVE ACCESS TO CERTAIN RELEVANT INFORMATION. ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR THE EXCHANGE FUND TO PUBLISH AT APPROPRIATE TIMES ON EACH DAY THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA THE BALANCE AT THE CLOSE OF THE PREVIOUS DAY AND THE NET EFFECT OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE EXCHANGE FUND DURING THE DAY ON THE BALANCE. IT IS HOPED THAT SUCH INFORMATION WILL START TO BE MADE AVAILABLE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. WHEN CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE, OTHER INFORMATION WILL ALSO BE SO PUBLISHED.

16. ANY REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE MATTERS DESCRIBED IN THIS PAPER SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION OF THE ACCOUNT. HE CAN BE REACHED AT 5-290021.

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1988

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EXCO REAPPOINTMENTS, APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, HAD REAPPOINTED MISS LYDIA DUNN, MISS MARIA TAM AND MR ALLEN LEE AS MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNTIL OCTOBER 31, 1991, AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THEIR PRESENT APPOINTMENTS ON AUGUST 31 THIS YEAR.

HE HAS ALSO REAPPOINTED DR CHIU HIN-KWONG AND DR DANIEL TSE FOR TWO MONTHS UNTIL OCTOBER 31 THIS YEAR.

THE GOVERNOR HAS ALSO APPOINTED MR JOHN SWAINE AND MRS ROSANNA TAM AS MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR TO OCTOBER 31, 1991.

SIR S.Y. CHUNG AND MR PETER C. WONG WILL BE RETIRING FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE EXPIRY OF THEIR PRESENT APPOINTMENTS ON AUGUST 31 THIS YEAR.

SIR Q.W. LEE'S PRESENT APPOINTMENT DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL DECEMBER 31 THIS YEAR AND THAT OF MR WILLIAM PURVES DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL AUGUST 31 NEXT YEAR.

MISS LYDIA DUNN HAS ACCEPTED THE GOVERNOR'S INVITATION TO BE THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

IN ANNOUNCING THESE CHANGES, THE GOVERNOR PAID TRIBUTE TO BOTH THE REAPPOINTED AND THE RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

HE SAID THAT THE WORKLOAD AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL HAD CONTINUED TO INCREASE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, MAKING GREATER DEMANDS ON MEMBERS' TIME.

THE GOVERNOR ADDED THAT SIR S.Y. CHUNG'S RETIREMENT MARKED THE CONCLUSION OF A LONG PERIOD OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, CULMINATING IN EIGHT YEARS AS SENIOR MEMBER.

HE SAID THAT, DURING ALL OF HIS 23 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE, SIR S.Y. CHUNG HAD SERVED THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WITH UNSWERVING DEDICATION AND LOYALTY. HIS WISE ADVICE AND EXPERIENCE WOULD BE GREATLY MISSED.

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FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1988

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VA'S PRAISED FOR LOOKING AFTER VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (FRIDAY) PRAISED THE CIVIL AID SERVICES AND OTHER VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN LOOKING AFTER VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

ALONG WITH THE CAS, SIR DAVID CITED THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES, THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT AND THE AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE FOR "DOING A FANTASTIC JOB" IN TAKING CARE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

SIR DAVID WAS VISITING GREEN ISLAND RECEPTION CENTRE AND ARGYLE STREET CAMP, BOTH BEING MANAGED BY CAS.

HE ALSO SAW THE CONDITIONS ON BOARD THE HARBOUR RECEPTION CENTRE, A FERRY BEING USED TO HOLD 500 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE. A SECOND FERRY HAS BEEN HIRED TO TAKE ANOTHER 500 VIETNAMESE THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON TO RELIEVE THE CROWDED CONDITION ON GREEN ISLAND.

THE TWO FERRIES ARE BEING MANAGED BY MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT.

SIR DAVID WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE TOUR BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CAS, SIR ROGER LOBO, AND CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, MR JOHN FORTUNE.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE TOUR, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID: "I THINK IT'S A GREAT TRIBUTE TO THE VOLUNTARY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO MAKE THIS EFFORT.

"THEY ARE DOING IT FOR A VERY LONG PERIOD OF TIME AND IT'S TO BE HIGHLY COMMENDED, ALL THEIR EFFORT."

THE CONDITIONS ON GREEN ISLAND AND ON THE FERRIES WERE NOT GOOD, SIR DAVID SAID, BUT THE EFFORTS OF THE CAS, IN PARTICULAR, TO MAKE THE BEST OF THEM WERE EXCELLENT.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT A STATEMENT THAT VIETNAM HAD ASKED THE UNHCR TO PREPARE A REPATRIATION PROGRAMME FOR THE BOAT PEOPLE, SIR DAVID SAID: "ANY SIGN OF WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT THEIR PEOPLE BACK IS VERY ENCOURAGING.

"I THINK WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO YET BEFORE WE ACTUALLY ACHIEVE THAT AIM BUT ALL THESE SIGNS ARE ENCOURAGING AND WE CERTAINLY WELCOME THEM."

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID TALKS WITH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ON POSSIBLE REPATRIATION WERE STILL BEING PLANNED AND HOPED TO ARRANGE THAT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

/HE ADDED: .....

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HE ADDED: "THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED WITH ENABLING THESE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO HOPE OF A FUTURE RESETTLEMENT IN THE WEST TO GO BACK TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE CONCERNED WITH."

THE SCREENING PROGRAMME TO WEED OUT ECONOMIC IMMIGRANTS FROM GENUINE REFUGEES WAS STILL PROGRESSING, SIR DAVID SAID: "IT'S A LENGTHY PROCESS, OF COURSE. IT HAS TO BE DONE IN GREAT DETAIL AND VERY CAREFULLY ACCORDING TO THE UNHCR CRITERIA. IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE RUSHED. EVERY CASE IS LOOKED AT VERY CAREFULLY."

ASKED ABOUT REPORTS OF FIGHTING INSIDE CAMPS, SIR DAVID SAID: "I THINK AS FAR AS THESE SORTS OF CAMPS ARE CONCERNED, WHERE THERE ARE PEOPLE LIVING IN CLOSE CONDITIONS LIKE THIS, IT'S INEVITABLE THERE WILL BE DISPUTES BETWEEN FAMILIES, DISPUTES OVER BELONGINGS, DISPUTES OVER THEIR FOOD AND WATER AND SO ON.

"THEY ARE NOT SERIOUS. I THINK THEY ARE TO BE EXPECTED."

REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON THE REFUSAL BY SOME HEI LING CHAU REFUGEES TO TAKE THEIR MEALS RECENTLY, SIR DAVID SAID THE MATTER WAS VERY QUICKLY SETTLED AND IT WAS NOT A SERIOUS INCIDENT.

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#### INCREASED LEVEL OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES RECORDED

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MAJOR INCREASES OF ACTIVITY IN MOST COMMERCIAL AREAS AND MINOR DECREASES IN OTHERS WERE RECORDED DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR BY COMPARISON WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

THE COMPANIES REGISTRY FIGURES SHOWED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPANIES REGISTERED UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AT THE END OF JUNE 1988 AS COMPARED WITH THE TOTAL NUMBER AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1987 HAD INCREASED BY 6 PER CENT FROM 185,588 TO 196,852.

THE NUMBER OF NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1988 HAD INCREASED BY 7 PER CENT FROM 11,860 TO 12,657 AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1987.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OVERSEAS COMPANIES WHICH HAD ESTABLISHED A PLACE OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG UNDER PART XI OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AT THE END OF JUNE 1988 AS COMPARED WITH THE TOTAL NUMBER AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1987 HAD INCREASED BY 0.7 PER CENT FROM 2,289 TO 2,306.

/THE NUMBER .....

THE NUMBER OF OVERSEAS COMPANIES ESTABLISHING A PLACE OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG UNDER PART XI DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1988 WAS 119, AN INCREASE OF 4 PER CENT OVER THE NUMBER OF SUCH COMPANIES DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1987.

NO SEPARATE STATISTICS ARE MAINTAINED ON HOW MANY OVERSEAS COMPANIES INCORPORATE LOCAL SUBSIDIARIES OR TAKE UP A MAJORITY SHAREHOLDING IN A HONG KONG COMPANY.

IN THE FIRST HALF YEAR OF 1988 EXISTING COMPANIES INCREASED THEIR NOMINAL CAPITAL BY \$23,088 MILLION, A DECREASE OF 5 PER CENT OVER THE INCREASE OF \$24,366 MILLION DURING THE SAME PERIOD OF 1987, WHILE THE NOMINAL CAPITAL OF NEW COMPANIES INCORPORATED DURING JANUARY TO JUNE 1988 INCREASED BY 29 PER CENT FROM \$1,957 MILLION TO \$2,518 MILLION COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED BY CHARGES REGISTERED ON THE ASSETS OF COMPANIES DECREASED BY 12 PER CENT FROM \$32,912 MILLION TO \$29,001 MILLION, AND THE NUMBER OF CHARGES FILED IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1988 HAD INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT FROM 10,016 TO 11,210 OVER THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1987.

THE AMOUNT REPAID ON CHARGES, AS EVIDENCED BY CERTIFICATES OF SATISFACTION, DECREASED BY 4 PER CENT FROM \$4,271 MILLION TO \$4,085 MILLION AND THE NUMBER OF CERTIFICATES HAD INCREASED BY 36 PER CENT FROM 4,556 TO 6,203 IN THE SAME PERIOD.

DURING THE PERIOD, A TOTAL OF 63 PROSPECTUSES OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, INCLUDING 29 IN RESPECT OF MUTUAL FUNDS, WERE APPROVED AS AGAINST 57 PROSPECTUSES, INCLUDING 22 IN RESPECT OF MUTUAL FUNDS, APPROVED DURING THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1987.

THE NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FOR FILING DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1988 AS COMPARED WITH THAT FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987 INCREASED BY 15 PER CENT FROM 291,832 TO 336,675.

THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES FOR AVAILABILITY OF RESERVATION OF NAMES DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1988 WAS 115,718 WHICH WAS A 24 PER CENT INCREASE OVER 93,289 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1987, AND A 22 PER CENT INCREASE OVER 95,071 IN THE JULY 1987 - DECEMBER 1987 PERIOD.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUMMONSES ISSUED BY THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES AGAINST COMPANIES AND THEIR DIRECTORS FOR BREACHES OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, MAINLY FOR FAILURE TO FILE ANNUAL RETURNS WITH ACCOUNTS, IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1988 WAS 162, COMPARED WITH 111 DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987.

DURING THE PERIOD 12 SUMMONSES WERE WITHDRAWN (FOR REASONS SUCH AS NON-SERVICE); 119 RESULTED IN CONVICTIONS COMPARED WITH 164 IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1987; AND 116 REMAIN TO BE HEARD BY THE COURT COMPARED WITH 118 IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1987.

/THE TOTAL .....

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THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINES IMPOSED FOR CONVICTIONS IN THE FIRST HALF YEAR OF 1988 WAS \$253,450, COMPARED WITH \$149,013 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1987.

THE TRADE MARKS REGISTRY SHOWED AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED DURING THE HALF YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1988 - 4,389 AS AGAINST 4,168 IN THE SAME PERIOD OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

AT 2,120, THE NUMBER OF NEW TRADE MARKS REGISTERED DURING THE HALF YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1988 WAS HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1987, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TRADE MARKS NOW REGISTERED TO 50,038.

IN THE PATENTS REGISTRY, THE NUMBER OF UNITED KINGDOM PATENTS RE-REGISTERED LOCALLY DURING THE HALF YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1988 WAS 490 AS AGAINST 500 IN THE SAME PERIOD OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF "LIVE" OR VALID PATENTS RE-REGISTERED WAS NOW APPROXIMATELY 14,000. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO GIVE A PRECISE FIGURE AS THIS DEPENDED ON THE "LIVES" OR VALIDITY OF THE PATENTS AS ORIGINALLY REGISTERED IN THE UK PATENTS OFFICE IN LONDON.

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WAGE INDEXES FOR MARCH  
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THE OVERALL NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR MARCH 1988, AT 156.9, INCREASED BY 9.8 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987 AND BY 3.8 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1987, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A COMPARISON OF THE MARCH 1988 AND MARCH 1987 INDEXES SHOWS THAT THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 8.8 PER CENT; FOR THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 12.1 PER CENT; FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 8.5 PER CENT; FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 13.2 PER CENT; AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 13.6 PER CENT.

A COMPARISON OF THE MARCH 1988 AND DECEMBER 1987 INDEXES SHOWS THAT THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 3.4 PER CENT; FOR THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 3.5 PER CENT; FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 4.5 PER CENT; FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 8 PER CENT; AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 5.9 PER CENT.

THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 1987 TO MARCH 1988 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 1. DETAILED BREAKDOWNS FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 2.

/THE OVERALL .....

THE OVERALL REAL WAGE INDEX, AT 109.4 IN MARCH 1988, WAS 2.6 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT IN MARCH 1987 AND 2.4 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT IN DECEMBER 1987.

FROM MARCH 1987 TO MARCH 1988, THE REAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 1.6 PER CENT; FOR THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 4.7 PER CENT; FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 1.3 PER CENT; FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 5.7 PER CENT; AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 6.1 PER CENT.

COMPARING MARCH 1988 WITH DECEMBER 1987, THE REAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT; FOR THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 2.1 PER CENT; FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 3.2 PER CENT; FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 6.5 PER CENT; AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 4.4 PER CENT.

THE REAL WAGE INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 1987 TO MARCH 1988 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 3.

THESE NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE INDEXES ARE DERIVED FROM THE SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONDUCTED EACH QUARTER BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, COVERING BOTH MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS (EXCLUDING WORKERS AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS) IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR, THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR AND THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR.

SUCH INDEXES MEASURE CHANGES IN WAGE RATES BY HOLDING THE STRUCTURAL PATTERN OF THE LABOUR FORCE WITH RESPECT TO INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION, SEX AND MODE OF PAYMENT THE SAME AS THAT OF MARCH 1982, WHICH IS THE BASE PERIOD OF THE WAGE INDEXES.

WHILE THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX MEASURES CHANGES IN WAGE RATES IN MONEY TERMS, THE REAL WAGE INDEX, WHICH IS OBTAINED BY DEFLATING THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), MEASURES CHANGES IN THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE WAGES RECEIVED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DREW ATTENTION TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE INDEXES AND THE INDEXES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED WHICH ARE ALSO PUBLISHED AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE WAGE RATES PROVIDE A MEASURE OF THE UNIT PRICE OF LABOUR, PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IS A MEASURE OF PER CAPITA EARNINGS.

WAGE RATES REPRESENT THE AMOUNT OF REMUNERATION FOR NORMAL HOURS OF WORK, AND ARE DEFINED TO INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AND SALARIES, COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE, MEAL BENEFITS, COMMISSION AND TIPS, GOOD ATTENDANCE BONUS AND NIGHT SHIFT ALLOWANCE.

/IN ADDITION, .....

IN ADDITION, YEAR-END BONUS AND OTHER GUARANTEED AND REGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES THAT ARE PAID LESS FREQUENTLY THAN MONTHLY, ARE CONVERTED TO AN EQUIVALENT MONTHLY RATE WHEN COMPILING THE WAGE RATE INDEXES.

TOTAL PAYROLL, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS THE AMOUNT OF DIRECT CASH PAYMENTS THAT EMPLOYEES RECEIVE FROM EMPLOYERS. APART FROM THE ABOVE MENTIONED CASH RECEIPTS, IT ALSO INCLUDES OVERTIME PAY AND OTHER NON-GUARANTEED AND IRREGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES.

HENCE, STATISTICS ON PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED TEND TO BE SENSITIVE TO CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED, THE TIMING OF THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES AND BACK-PAY, AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE LABOUR FORCE.

AS A RESULT, MOVEMENTS IN WAGE RATES DO NOT NECESSARILY CONFORM WITH THOSE IN PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED.

THE SURVEY FINDINGS ARE PUBLISHED IN A REPORT OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS STATISTICS VOLUME I, MARCH 1988 WHICH WILL BE ON SALE SHORTLY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

THE VOLUME II ISSUE OF THE REPORT CONTAINING DETAILED OCCUPATIONAL STATISTICS, SUCH AS WAGE RATES, NUMBER OF NORMAL HOURS OF WORK AND NUMBER OF STANDARD WORKING DAYS IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN EARLY AUGUST THIS YEAR.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE WAGE INDEXES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE WAGES AND LABOUR COSTS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8235024 OR 5-8234747.

TABLE 1: NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	MAR. 1987	JUN. 1987	SEPT. 1987	DEC. 1987	MAR. 1988
MANUFACTURING	142.1	146.2	148.4	149.5	154.6
WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	135.2	137.5	141.5	146.5	151.6
TRANSPORT SERVICES	164.0	166.6	170.4	170.3	177.9

/BUSINESS SERVICES .....

BUSINESS SERVICES	148.6	152.6	155.8	155.8	168.2
PERSONAL SERVICES	136.7	141.0	145.7	146.6	155.3
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ALL SECTORS ABOVE	142.9	146.5	149.4	151.2	156.9
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TABLE 2: NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

INDUSTRY	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	MAR. 1987	JUN. 1987	SEPT. 1987	DEC. 1987	MAR. 1988
GARMENTS	128.3	132.2	132.5	133.1	135.7
GLOVES	149.1	152.2	154.3	153.9	159.5
HANDBAGS	135.9	136.7	141.9	142.8	147.2
COTTON SPINNING/WEAVING	161.8	163.0	164.6	165.5	172.0
KNITTING	140.8	146.5	148.3	148.2	150.0
BLEACHING AND DYEING	160.3	167.2	168.3	169.3	175.2
PRINTING	145.2	160.6	162.4	164.1	170.5
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	144.8	146.4	146.8	146.4	151.2
METAL PRODUCTS	145.6	151.4	153.0	154.3	160.9
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	159.2	163.0	165.6	168.6	177.2
ELECTRONICS	153.2	155.6	162.3	165.0	175.3
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	156.9	171.8	174.9	176.1	182.8
-----					
MANUFACTURING	142.1	146.2	148.4	149.5	154.6
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TABLE 3: REAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	MAR. 1987	JUN. 1987	SEPT. 1987	DEC. 1987	MAR. 1988
MANUFACTURING	106.0	106.3	106.9	105.6	107.7
WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	100.9	99.9	101.9	103.4	105.6
TRANSPORT SERVICES	122.4	121.1	122.8	120.2	124.0
BUSINESS SERVICES	110.9	110.9	112.2	110.0	117.2
PERSONAL SERVICES	102.0	102.5	105.0	103.6	108.2
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	106.6	106.5	107.7	106.8	109.4

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6 UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS (AMENDMENT)  
ORDINANCE 1988 EXPLAINED  
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO ENFORCE THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1988 PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS WEEK, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR ADOLF HSU, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MR HSU SAID THAT THE ENACTMENT OF THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE WAS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM BEING INDUCED BY SUCH ADVERTISEMENTS TO SEEK IMPROPER TREATMENT FROM UNQUALIFIED PERSONS OR RESORT TO WRONGFUL APPLICATION BY SELF-MEDICATION.

THE PART OF THE ORDINANCE WHICH DEALS WITH THE PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISEMENTS WILL COME INTO EFFECT ONE MONTH AFTER THE ENACTMENT AND PART II, WHICH RELATES TO ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE FORM OF LABELLED PACKAGES WILL BE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION 24 MONTHS LATER TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR EXISTING LABELS AND PACKAGES TO BE MODIFIED IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW PROVISION.

/ "I WOULD .....

"I WOULD THEREFORE ADVISE THOSE WHO PUT UP ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE FORMS OF SIGNS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS AND OTHERS WHICH MAY CONTRAVENE THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE TO WITHDRAW OR REMOVE THE ADVERTISEMENTS WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

MR HSU EXPLAINED THAT THE PRINCIPAL UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS ORDINANCE PROHIBITED PUBLICATION OF ANY ADVERTISEMENT IF IT REPRESENTED ANY MEDICINE, SURGICAL APPLIANCE OR TREATMENT, WHETHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY OR BY IMPLICATION, AS BEING EFFECTIVE FOR THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES LISTED IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE.

"PROBLEMS OF ENFORCEMENT AROSE WHERE ADVERTISEMENTS AVOIDED THE USE OF THE PRECISE TERMS APPEARING IN THE SCHEDULE IN REFERRING TO THE TREATMENT AVAILABLE AND USE INSTEAD COLLOQUIAL TERMS OR VEILED LANGUAGE SUCH AS SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE.

"IN SUCH CASES IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PROVE THAT THE MEDICINE OR TREATMENT ADVERTISED HAD CONTRAVENED THE LAW. PROBLEMS COULD ALSO ARISE, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF STREET ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS, IN IDENTIFYING AND PROSECUTING THE PERSON PLACING THE ADVERTISEMENT," MR HSU SAID.

THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE REMOVED THE LEGAL OBSTACLES BY MAKING THE PROHIBITION AGAINST ADVERTISING DEPEND NOT ON WHAT THE ADVERTISEMENT REPRESENTS, BUT ON WHETHER IT IS LIKELY TO LEAD PERSONS READING THE ADVERTISEMENT TO USE THE MEDICINE, SURGICAL APPLIANCE OR TREATMENT ADVERTISED IN THE TREATMENT OR PREVENTION OF ANY OF THE PRESCRIBED DISEASES OR FOR ANY OF THE OTHER SPECIFIED PURPOSES.

"AS A DETERRENT, PENALTY FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE AMENDED ORDINANCE HAS BEEN INCREASED TO \$10,000 ON FIRST CONVICTION AND \$25,000 ON SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS," MR HSU SAID.

PRESUMPTION CLAUSES ARE PROVIDED UNDER THE ORDINANCE TO IDENTIFY THE PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR PLACING THE ADVERTISEMENTS.

UNLESS THE CONTRARY IS PROVED, A PERSON WHO IS HELD OUT IN AN ADVERTISEMENT AS BEING A MANUFACTURER OR SUPPLIER OF MEDICINE OR SURGICAL APPLIANCES, OR AS BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE TREATMENT, IS PRESUMED TO HAVE CAUSED THE ADVERTISEMENT TO BE PUBLISHED.

WHERE AN ADVERTISEMENT INDICATES SOME MEANS OF CONTACTING A PERSON WHO PROVIDES TREATMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, AN ADDRESS OR A TELEPHONE NUMBER, THAT PERSON IS PRESUMED TO HAVE CAUSED THE ADVERTISEMENT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"THE LEGAL PROFESSION HAS BEEN CONSULTED ON THESE ARRANGEMENTS AND THEY SEE NO OBJECTION TO THEM," MR HSU SAID.

TWO NEW SCHEDULES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE AMENDED ORDINANCE TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ONE. "THESE UPDATE THE LIST OF PRESCRIBED DISEASES AND SPECIFIED PURPOSES AND LIST THEM IN A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND RATIONAL MANNER," MR HSU SAID.

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PROCEDURES OF AMENDING PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCES REVISED

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL BE ABLE TO AMEND THE TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF A PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE (PSL) AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE LICENSEE.

THIS IS STIPULATED IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1988 PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

AT PRESENT, THE COMMISSIONER MUST OBTAIN THE PRIOR CONSENT OF THE LICENSEE BEFORE HE COULD INTRODUCE ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE PSL.

"THIS LIMITS THE COMMISSIONER'S ABILITY TO MEET PUBLIC TRANSPORT NEEDS PROMPTLY AND MAY, IN SOME CASES, JEOPARDISE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED.

"A PSL IS ISSUED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO AUTHORISE ITS HOLDER TO OPERATE A NON-FRANCHISED PUBLIC BUS SERVICE, A PRIVATE BUS SERVICE OR A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS SERVICE. TO MEET CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS SOMETIMES NECESSARY TO AMEND THE TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF THE LICENCE, FOR EXAMPLE, MAKING ALTERATIONS TO THE ROUTING OR STOPS OF THE SERVICE TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS."

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, THE COMMISSIONER, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE LICENSEE, MUST GIVE THE LICENSEE THREE MONTHS' NOTICE OF THE AMENDMENTS IN WRITING, EITHER PERSONALLY OR BY REGISTERED POST.

TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF THE LICENSEE, AMENDMENTS TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE TO ENABLE THE LICENSEE TO APPLY FOR A REVIEW BY THE TRANSPORT TRIBUNAL OF ANY DECISION MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO AMEND THE TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF A PSL.

"THE APPLICATION MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE COMMISSIONER WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER THE LICENSEE IS NOTIFIED OF THE AMENDMENTS, AND THE AMENDMENTS CONCERNED WILL NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL THE TRANSPORT TRIBUNAL COMPLETES ITS REVIEW AND REACHES A DECISION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1988 ALSO EMPOWERS THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO SPECIFY THE FORMAT AND PARTICULARS OF THE PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE CERTIFICATE DISPLAYED AT THE FRONT OF A VEHICLE.

AT PRESENT, ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE CERTIFICATE CONTAINING SUCH PARTICULARS AS VEHICLE NUMBER, DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPE OF SERVICE AND EXPIRY DATE, HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

/FURTHERMORE, IN .....

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FURTHERMORE, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CONSISTENCY IN THE FEES AND PROCEDURES FOR ISSUING DUPLICATE LICENSING DOCUMENTS UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, THE AMENDED REGULATIONS ALSO PROVIDE THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT THE POWER TO ISSUE DUPLICATE PSL'S AND HIRE CAR PERMITS AT A FEE OF \$60.

"THE ISSUE OF SUCH DUPLICATES ARE CURRENTLY NOT PROVIDED IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES) REGULATIONS AND ARE ISSUED UNDER THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE AT A FEE OF \$65," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

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## AIRPORT EASY TRAVEL SCHEME STARTS ON AUGUST 1

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE EASY TRAVEL SCHEME WILL BE OPERATIONAL AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON AUGUST 1.

"UNDER THE SCHEME, TRAVELLERS USING HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS FOR IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE AT THE AIRPORT DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE CARDS AS AT OTHER COMPUTERISED CONTROL POINTS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"HOLDERS OF NEW HONG KONG PERMANENT IDENTITY CARDS, AGED 18 OR OVER, WILL FURTHER BENEFIT BY BEING EXEMPTED FROM PRODUCING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AT THE AIRPORT FOR TRAVELS TO AND FROM THEIR DESTINATIONS.

"HOLDERS OF HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS WITH THE \*\*\* SYMBOL WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL WITHOUT THE HONG KONG RE-ENTRY PERMITS FOR JOURNEYS TO AND FROM CHINA.

"HOWEVER, ALL TRAVELLERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY SHOULD BE PROPERLY DOCUMENTED FOR THEIR DESTINATIONS."

TO TIE IN WITH THE NEW PHASE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ALL THE 98 ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE IMMIGRATION COUNTERS AT THE AIRPORT WILL BE COMPUTERISED BY AUGUST 1.

A FURTHER 68 IMMIGRATION COUNTERS WILL BE PUT INTO SERVICE, WHEN THE AIRPORT STAGE V EXTENSION PROJECT IS COMPLETED, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT TRAVELLERS WHO DO NOT USE THEIR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS WHEN PASSING THROUGH THE CONTROL POINTS AT THE AIRPORT SHOULD PRODUCE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND COMPLETED ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE CARDS.

"ALL CHILDREN UNDER 18 AND ADULTS WHOSE IDENTITY CARDS HAVE BEEN PERFORATED, DEFACED, LOST, INVALIDATED OR THOSE WHO ARE EXEMPTED FROM OBTAINING IDENTITY CARDS SHOULD TRAVEL ON PROPER TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WHEN PASSING THROUGH THE CONTROL POINTS," HE SAID.

"TO HELP REDUCE WAITING TIME, PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO COMPLETE ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE CARDS ON BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN WHO DO NOT YET HAVE IDENTITY CARDS."

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YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE TO BE RENAMED

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THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE (YEAS) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL CHANGE ITS NAME SHORTLY TO REFLECT MORE ACCURATELY THE VARIOUS SERVICES IT PROVIDES FOR YOUNGSTERS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE 10TH SEMINAR ON CAREERS EDUCATION, MR HAMMOND SAID THERE HAD BEEN A MISCONCEPTION THAT THE YEAS WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR PLACING YOUNG PEOPLE INTO EMPLOYMENT.

"TO AVOID AMBIGUITY IN THIS REGARD, THE YEAS WILL SHORTLY BE RENAMED AS THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE," HE SAID.

"ALSO, IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN GENERAL, AND SECONDARY STUDENTS IN PARTICULAR, A FOURTH CENTRE WILL BE SET UP SOON IN SHA TIN TO PROVIDE A CAREERS SERVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

"FITTING-OUT WORK FOR THE NEW CENTRE AT THE CHANWAY SHOPPING CENTRE WILL BE COMMENCED SHORTLY."

THE SEMINAR WAS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS, AND HELD AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

MR HAMMOND ALSO SAID THAT A SERIES OF VIDEO SHOWS HAS BEEN ORGANISED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE EXISTING THREE CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

THE VIDEO SHOWS ARE ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDIES AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AS WELL AS EMPLOYMENT ASPECTS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

THROUGH A GENEROUS DONATION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE WILL ALSO PRODUCE 10 CAREERS FILMS ON VARIOUS INDUSTRIES, TRADES AND PROFESSIONS TO PROVIDE VIVID AND UP-TO-DATE CAREERS INFORMATION TO ALL NEXT YEAR.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR D.H.T. LAN, ALSO SPOKE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

MR LAN EMPHASISED THE VALUE OF THE TRIPARTITE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS WHICH TOGETHER "ARE DOING MUCH TO PROVIDE A VITAL SERVICE IN CAREERS EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR SCHOOLS".

HE SAID THE CAREERS EDUCATION CENTRE IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS HAD BEEN CONSTANTLY UPDATING AND REPLENISHING VARIOUS TYPES OF INFORMATION.

/"IT HAS .....

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"IT HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION AND DISSEMINATION OF CAREERS INFORMATION AND RESOURCE MATERIALS.

"REGULAR CAREERS VISITS, WORKSHOPS, DISCUSSION SESSIONS, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING COURSES ARE ORGANISED FOR CAREERS TEACHERS TO UPDATE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN CAREERS GUIDANCE AND TO KEEP THEM ABREAST OF CHANGES TAKING PLACE," MR LAN SAID.

TODAY'S SEMINAR WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 100 CAREERS TEACHERS FROM VARIOUS SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDED MRS GRACE CHOW, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF STUDENT AFFAIRS, CHINESE UNIVERSITY; MR CHAN HIN-SANG, PERSONNEL OFFICER, CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO. LTD.; AND MR RAYMOND LEUNG, LABOUR OFFICER, LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE PREPARATION FOR JOINING THE WORLD OF WORK, LADDER OF SUCCESS FOR YOUNG SCHOOL LEAVERS, AND JOB-SEEKERS AND CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT.

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#### MORE OPPORTUNITIES URGED FOR DISABLED

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THE COMMUNITY MUST OPEN ITS CHANNEL TO THE DISABLED SO THAT THEY COULD SHARE THE SAME RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AS THEIR ABLE-BODIED COUNTERPARTS BECAUSE REHABILITATION SERVICES ARE ONLY PART OF THE REQUIRED ACTION TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF INTEGRATING THE DISABLED INTO THE COMMUNITY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SHE WAS SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND JOINT SCHOOLS' END OF TERM CEREMONY OF THE SPASTICS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, HELD AT THE MARTHA BOSS COMMUNITY CENTRE IN HO MAN TIN.

MRS WONG NOTED THAT LIKE ALL OF US, THE DISABLED ALSO NEEDED EMPLOYMENT AND MOREOVER, THEY NEEDED THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FROM PARENTS, FRIENDS, THEIR FELLOW WORKERS AND THE COMMUNITY TO FACE THE CHALLENGE OF THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT.

TO PREPARE THEM TO FACE THE CHALLENGE, VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION WAS ESSENTIAL, AND THIS INCLUDED VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND ASSESSMENT, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND PLACEMENT SERVICES, MRS WONG SAID.

/VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE .....

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VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES IN THE FORM OF INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING, SEMINARS, TALKS, VISITS TO FACTORIES, AND OTHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, WAS USUALLY CARRIED OUT BY A SOCIAL WORKER IN COLLABORATION WITH THE TRAINING OR TEACHING STAFF.

VOCATIONAL ASSESSMENT WAS CURRENTLY PROVIDED BY THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT (TEITD) AT THE VOCATIONAL ASSESSMENT SECTION IN THE KWUN TONG SKILLS CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED.

IT HELPED TO EVALUATE A DISABLED PERSON'S POTENTIAL, ABILITY AND LIMITATION AND PROVIDED THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN THE RIGHT TRADES.

AFTER ASSESSMENT, THE ELIGIBLE DISABLED PERSONS MIGHT ATTEND ONE OF THE FIVE TEITD-RUN AND SUBVENTED VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES WHICH PROVIDED A VARIETY OF TRAINING COURSES TO EQUIP THEM WITH THE REQUIRED SKILLS TO ENHANCE THEIR EMPLOYABILITY IN A WIDE RANGE OF TRADES.

WHEN THEY HAD COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING, THE DISABLED COULD SEEK OPEN EMPLOYMENT BY THEMSELVES OR SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, WHICH COULD HELP TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO PERSONS SUFFERING FROM BLINDNESS, DEAFNESS, PHYSICAL HANDICAP, MENTAL ILLNESS AND MENTAL HANDICAP.

"SHELTERED WORK IS PROVIDED FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT OBTAIN OPEN EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR LIMITATIONS AND THERE ARE CURRENTLY 29 SHELTERED WORKSHOPS WITH 3,005 PLACES FOR THE DISABLED, WITH AN ADDITIONAL 1,755 PLACES TO BE PROVIDED WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS," MRS WONG SAID.

"THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO EXPLORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OTHER THAN SHELTERED WORK AND HAS DEVELOPED THE CONCEPT OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT," SHE SAID.

"THE OBJECTIVE OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT IS TO OFFER NEW MODELS OF EMPLOYMENT TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NORMAL WORK SETTING, BUT WITH CONTINUOUS AND ONGOING SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT.

"IT WILL ENSURE THAT THE DISABLED HAVE ACCESS TO A CHOICE OF WAGE-GENERATING WORK WITH JOB SECURITY AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOBILITY AND ADVANCEMENT.

"SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT MAY BE PRACTICABLE IN THE OPEN JOB MARKET WHERE THE DISABLED CAN WORK ALONGSIDE WITH THEIR ABLE-BODIED COUNTERPARTS AND IT WOULD ENHANCE THEIR SENSE OF WORTH AND DIGNITY AS WELL AS SOCIAL AND INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP," SHE SAID.

/MRS WONG .....

MRS WONG SAID SERVICES OF DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES WERE AVAILABLE FOR MILDLY, MODERATELY AND SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED ADULTS WHO WERE UNABLE TO BENEFIT FROM VOCATIONAL OR PRE-VOCATIONAL TRAINING OR SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT.

"A DAY ACTIVITY CENTRE PROVIDES DAY CARE AND TRAINING IN SELF-CARE, DAILY LIVING, COMMUNITY LIVING AND SOCIAL SKILLS, ADULT EDUCATION AND SIMPLE WORK AND OCCUPATIONAL ACTIVITIES, ALL OF WHICH AIM AT HELPING THE DISABLED TO BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT IN THEIR DAILY LIFE," SHE SAID.

"THERE ARE NOW 26 DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES WITH 1,260 PLACES AND ABOUT 810 ADDITIONAL PLACES WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS," SHE ADDED.

CONCEDING THAT THERE WAS STILL A GAP BETWEEN DEMAND AND THE PROVISION OF POST-SCHOOL PLACEMENT FOR THE DISABLED, MRS WONG SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD COME UP WITH CERTAIN INTERIM MEASURES TO BRIDGE THE GAP, INCLUDING THE HOME-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMME AND THE COMMERCIALY-HIRED VEHICLES SERVICE.

"THE HOME-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMME WILL BE PROVIDED TO MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS AWAITING PLACEMENTS IN DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES OR RESIDENTIAL SHELTERED WORKSHOPS.

TRAINING SESSIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED ONCE A WEEK IN THEIR OWN HOMES WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS," SHE SAID.

"THREE HOME-BASED TRAINING TEAMS HAVE BEEN PLANNED FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR AND THE FIRST TEAM HAS COMMENCED SERVICE SINCE APRIL 1," SHE ADDED.

COMMERCIALY-HIRED VEHICLES WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORT SERVICE TO DISABLED PERSONS WILLING TO ATTEND SHELTERED WORKSHOPS OUTSIDE THEIR RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS IN ORDER TO MAKE FULL UTILISATION OF LIMITED RESOURCES," SHE SAID.

TURNING TO RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED, MRS WONG SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EXISTING RESIDENTIAL SERVICES WAS TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION AND CARE TO THE DISABLED WHO COULD NOT LIVE INDEPENDENTLY, OR COULD NOT BE ADEQUATELY CARED FOR AT HOME BY THEIR OWN MEANS OR BY THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, OR LIVED TOO FAR AWAY FROM SCHOOL OR THE PLACE OF TRAINING AND WORK.

SHE SAID THAT APART FROM CONTINUING WITH THE EXISTING PROVISION OF COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING TO THE DISABLED, THE DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO CONSIDERING NEW MODELS IN THE FORMS OF SMALL GROUP HOMES IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO MEET THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF DISABLED PERSONS WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF FUNCTIONING.

NEVERTHELESS, SHE STRESSED THAT NO HOSTEL, HOWEVER WELL-MANAGED, COULD BE COMPARED TO THE WARMTH OF A HOME AND TO THE PRESENCE OF PARENTS AND FAMILY.

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"LET ME ASK YOU TO GIVE THEM A HOME AND A LIFE OF LOVE, AND FOR OUR PART WE WOULD TRY TO PROVIDE THE SUPPORT YOU NEED TO ACHIEVE THIS NOBLE AND DIFFICULT TASK," SHE URGED.

MRS WONG COMMENDED THE SPASTICS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG FOR PROVIDING A MYRIAD OF SERVICES FOR THE SEVERELY DISABLED, RANGING FROM SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES, SPECIAL SCHOOLS TO SHELTERED WORKSHOPS AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES.

AT AN EARLIER FUNCTION TODAY, MRS WONG ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE FOR PROVIDING EDUCATION AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEED SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT 40 YEARS AGO.

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RSNT LEARNS MORE ABOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN TUEN MUN

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TODAY (FRIDAY) MET REPRESENTATIVES OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES (MAC'S) AND A YIN NGAI SOCIETY AND LEARNED MORE ABOUT THE FUNCTION AND ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS DURING A VISIT TO TUEN MUN.

MR SUEN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOHN WAN, DURING THE TOUR.

DURING HIS STOP IN SIU HONG COURT, MR SUEN WAS INTRODUCED TO THE KEY OFFICE-BEARERS OF VARIOUS MAC'S IN THE SIU YIN HOUSE MAC OFFICE.

HE WAS TOLD THAT SIU HONG COURT, WITH A POPULATION OF 17,400, IS THE LARGEST HOUSING ESTATE UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME.

THE MAC'S WERE SET UP TO PROMOTE A SENSE OF FRIENDLINESS, MUTUAL HELP AND RESPONSIBILITY AMONG RESIDENTS AS WELL AS TO ENHANCE THE SECURITY, LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE BUILDINGS.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MORE COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS, THE DISTRICT OFFICE HAS INITIATED THE SETTING UP OF A YOUTH CENTRE IN THE ROOF GARDEN OF THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX THERE.

MR SUEN ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE SIU HONG YIN NGAI SOCIETY.

THE YIN NGAI SOCIETY WAS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR WOMEN TO MEET AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIALS AND SELF-CONFIDENCE THROUGH ORGANISING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

/THE SIU .....

THE SIU HONG YIN NGAI SOCIETY, WHICH WAS SET UP LAST YEAR, IS ONE OF THE SIX YIN NGAI SOCIETIES IN THE DISTRICT PROVIDING A NUMBER OF RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FOR WOMEN, ESPECIALLY HOUSEWIVES, TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THEIR LEISURE TIME.

THE SOCIETY HAS MORE THAN 170 MEMBERS AND IS CHAIRED BY AN EXPERIENCED COMMUNITY LEADER.

DURING HIS VISIT TO SUN FAT ESTATE, MR SUEN WAS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BLOCK III MAC, MADAM KWONG MAN-NUI, AT HER FLAT.

MADAM KWONG MOVED INTO THE ESTATE IN 1973. IN RECOGNITION OF HER EFFORTS IN SERVING THE COMMUNITY, SHE WAS AWARDED WITH THE GOVERNOR'S COMMENDATION EARLY THIS YEAR.

MR SUEN ALSO WENT TO AREA 4B WHICH IS A RESIDENTIAL AREA COMPOSED OF 22 BLOCKS OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS WITH MORE THAN 8,500 RESIDENTS.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN TUEN MUN, MR SUEN VISITED THE INDUSTRIAL ZONES IN AREAS 9 AND 12 WHICH COVER A TOTAL AREA OF 23 HECTARES.

THERE ARE ABOUT 2,000 MANUFACTURING FIRMS INVOLVING IN PLASTICS, METAL AND GARMENT INDUSTRIES IN THE TWO AREAS. OVER 50 PER CENT OF THE 25,000 WORKFORCE THERE ARE TUEN MUN RESIDENTS.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY THEN WENT TO THE TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE BUILDING AND WAS GREETED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR LAU WONG-FAT, AND VICE-CHAIRMEN, MESSRS CHAN WING-HING AND TO KAM-CHOW. THEY EXCHANGED VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN VILLAGES AND RELATED IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

MR SUEN ALSO MET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS DURING A LUNCHEON.

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NEW IDENTITY CARDS FOR WOMEN BORN IN 1967-69

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WOMEN BORN IN 1967, 1968 AND 1969 WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS FROM JULY 25 TO AUGUST 26, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

"WOMEN OF THE ABOVE AGE GROUP CAN CALL AT ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES DURING THIS PERIOD," AN IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE OFFICES ARE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 PM DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

"AS THESE OFFICES ARE VERY CROWDED IN THE EVENINGS, APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO GO THERE IN THE MORNINGS AND AFTERNOONS TO AVOID THE QUEUES OR HAVING TO COME BACK ON ANOTHER DAY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"APPLICANTS MAY ALSO MAKE USE OF THE PHONE-IN SERVICE TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING THE OFFICE OF THEIR CHOICE."

THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE:

HONG KONG : BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.  
TEL. NO. 5-747070

EAST KOWLOON : AMOY PLAZA, SECOND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD.  
TEL. NO. 3-7553679

WEST KOWLOON : CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR,  
393 CANTON ROAD, YAU MA TEI.  
TEL. NO. 3-7232424

TSUEN WAN : EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,  
29-37 TSUEN FU STREET..  
TEL. NO. 0-4981259

SHA TIN : SHA TIN CENTRE, PODIUM FLOOR, 2-16 WANG POK  
ROAD.  
TEL. NO. 0-6059108

YUEN LONG : HOP YICK CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR, 31 HOP YICK ROAD.  
TEL. NO. 0-793291

TUEN MUN : CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,  
CHI LOK FA YUEN.  
TEL. NO. 0-4580862

SHEUNG SHUI : TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR, 82-84 SAN FUNG  
AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI.  
TEL. NO. 0-927155

/"APPLICANTS NORMALLY .....

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"APPLICANTS NORMALLY NEED TO BRING ALONG THEIR EXISTING IDENTITY CARDS IF THEIR CARDS WERE FIRST REGISTERED NOT LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS AGO AND BEAR THE \*\*\* SYMBOL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"HOWEVER, IF AN APPLICANT'S IDENTITY CARD WAS FIRST REGISTERED LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS AGO OR DOES NOT HAVE THE \*\*\* SYMBOL, SHE IS REQUIRED TO FURNISH MORE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE ASSESSMENT OF HER RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG AND SUBSEQUENTLY HER ELIGIBILITY FOR A PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD.

"THE DOCUMENT MAY TAKE THE FORM OF TRAVEL DOCUMENT, HONG KONG BIRTH CERTIFICATE, HONG KONG NATURALISATION CERTIFICATE, HONG KONG REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE, AND SO ON," HE SAID.

HE ALSO REMINDED MEN BORN IN 1953, 1954 AND 1969 WHO HAVE NOT APPLIED FOR THEIR NEW IDENTITY CARDS TO COME FORWARD WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY AS THERE IS ONLY ONE MORE WEEK LEFT BEFORE THE CURRENT PHASE CLOSES ON JULY 23.

HE POINTED OUT THAT FAILURE TO APPLY FOR A NEW IDENTITY CARD WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD IS AN OFFENCE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$3,000.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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#### 168 POLICE OFFICERS COMPLETE INTENSIVE TRAINING

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ANOTHER 168 POLICE OFFICERS HAVE COMPLETED INTENSIVE TRAINING AT THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT, EQUIPPING THEMSELVES WITH ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO DEAL WITH EXCEPTIONAL SITUATIONS.

THE DELTA COMPANY TODAY (FRIDAY) PASSED OUT FROM THE PTU HEADQUARTERS IN FANLING WHERE THEY HAD UNDERGONE A 10-WEEK TRAINING PROGRAMME WHICH COVERED A BROAD FIELD OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING INTERNAL SECURITY DRILLS AND TACTICS, SPECIALISED FIREARMS TRAINING, CROWD CONTROL, FIRST AID, HELICOPTER TRAINING WITH THE ARMED FORCES AND PHYSICAL FITNESS.

ADDRESSING THEM AT THE PASSING OUT CEREMONY, THE CHIEF STAFF OFFICER/PUBLIC RELATIONS, MR JOHN DUNN, SAID PTU TRAINING WAS ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO THE ABILITY OF THE POLICE FORCE WHICH TO A VERY LARGE EXTENT COHERED WITH THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG.

"FOR US THERE CAN BE NO PROSPERITY WITHOUT STABILITY, THERE CAN BE NO STABILITY WITHOUT LAW AND ORDER," HE SAID.

/WHILE CONGRATULATING .....

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WHILE CONGRATULATING THE GRADUATES, MR DUNN URGED THEM TO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE THE NORMAL COURTESY AND RESTRAINT IN CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES.

"THE FORCE DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON THE CO-OPERATION IT RECEIVES FROM THE PUBLIC. THEIR TRUST AND SUPPORT HAS BEEN PAINFULLY BUILT UP OVER MANY YEARS -- MAKE SURE YOU DO NOTHING THAT WILL DAMAGE IT," SAID MR DUNN.

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30 PASS FINAL LICENTIATE EXAMINATION  
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THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT 30 OUT OF 83 CANDIDATES HAD PASSED THE FINAL PART OF THE LICENTIATE EXAMINATION FOR UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS.

THIS EXAMINATION, HELD FROM JULY 5 TO 7, WAS AN ORAL ONE TO TEST THE ABILITY OF CANDIDATES TO APPLY PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO CLINICAL PROBLEMS.

CANDIDATES WERE EXAMINED BY TWO PANELS OF EXAMINERS IN EACH OF THE THREE DISCIPLINES - MEDICINE, SURGERY AND OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO AN 18-MONTH PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT AND TRAINING IN HOSPITALS APPROVED BY THE MEDICAL COUNCIL STARTING IN SEPTEMBER.

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DTC REGISTRATION REVOKED  
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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE REGISTRATION OF CHEERFUL FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS OF TODAY AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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APPROVED NORTH POINT OUTLINE ZONING PLAN GAZETTED

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THE APPROVED OUTLINE ZONING PLAN FOR NORTH POINT, PASSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN COVERS AN AREA OF 295 HECTARES WITH DEVELOPMENT CONCENTRATING IN THE STREET BLOCKS TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF KING'S ROAD.

THE WELL-WOODED STEEP SLOPES RISING TOWARD THE SOUTH FORMS A GREEN BACKDROP TO THE PLANNING AREA. VICTORIA PARK, LOCATED TO THE WEST, IS THE MAJOR OPEN SPACE FOR THE AREA.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE PLAN IS TO PROVIDE A STATUTORY LAND USE PATTERN AND ROAD NETWORK AS A BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE MAJOR REDEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA ARE CARRIED OUT IN A CO-ORDINATED AND COMPREHENSIVE MANNER, CERTAIN AREAS ARE ZONED "OTHER SPECIFIED USES" ANNOTATED "COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT AREA".

WITHIN SUCH ZONING, DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS ARE SUBJECT TO THE PERMISSION OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD.

THE PLAN CAN BE SEEN AT THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND AT THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE APPROVED PLAN ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MAP AND PLAN SALES SECTION, SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

THEY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE KOWLOON MAP AND PLAN SALES SECTION, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE PRICE IS \$10 FOR AN UNCOLOURED VERSION AND \$50 FOR A COLOURED PRINTED VERSION.

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PSPS SITE IN MA ON SHAN OFFERED FOR SALE

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A PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME DEVELOPMENT WILL BE BUILT ON A 3,951-SQUARE-METRE SITE IN MA ON SHAN TOWN CENTRE, SHA TIN.

THE SCHEME WILL PROVIDE 510 TO 560 RESIDENTIAL UNITS, RANGING BETWEEN 35 SQUARE METRES AND 55 SQUARE METRES.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SAID ABOUT 58 PER CENT OF THE RESIDENTIAL UNITS WOULD HAVE THREE BEDROOMS.

UPON COMPLETION, THE DEVELOPMENT'S TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA FOR RESIDENTIAL USE SHOULD NOT EXCEED 29,680 SQUARE METRES.

THE DEVELOPER IS ALSO REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A SHOPPING AREA AND A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND.

GODOWN AND CINEMA DEVELOPMENTS, HOWEVER, ARE NOT PERMITTED.

THE SITE IS BEING OFFERED FOR SALE BY TENDER BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE DEADLINE FOR TENDERS IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 9.

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NT LOTS TO BE RESUMED FOR SEWERAGE SYSTEM

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME 44 LOTS IN FANLING FOR THE LAYING OF A TRUNK SEWER TO PROVIDE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

THE LOTS COMPRISE 96.2 SQUARE METRES OF BUILDING LAND AND 27,606.1 SQUARE METRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.

THE RESUMPTION IS REQUIRED NOW TO ALLOW WORK ON THE 2,200-METRE SEWER TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER.

THE NEW SEWER IS NEEDED FOR THE CONNECTION OF THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN FANLING SOUTH TO THE SHEK WU HUI SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS TO CATER FOR THE POPULATION IN WAH MING ESTATE IN LATE 1989.

A NOTICE ON THE RESUMPTION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY). THE LOTS WILL REVERT TO GOVERNMENT ON THE EXPIRY OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE POSTING OF THE NOTICE ON THE LOTS.

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DEMOLITION OF OLD FOOTBRIDGE IN VALLEY ROAD ESTATE

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO DEMOLISH A TEMPORARY FOOTBRIDGE LINKING BLOCKS 10 AND 17 OF THE VALLEY ROAD ESTATE IN HO MAN TIN.

"THE FOOTBRIDGE WHICH HAS BEEN IN SERVICE FOR 18 YEARS HAS DETERIORATED TO A STATE WHERE IT IS NOW BEYOND ECONOMICAL REPAIR," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT BRANCH SAID.

"IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO TAKE DOWN THIS FOOTBRIDGE SO AS TO AVOID A POSSIBLE MISHAP."

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS CONFIRMED THAT THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR REPROVISION OF THIS FOOTBRIDGE BECAUSE THE PEDESTRIAN DEMAND FOR ITS USE IS LIGHT AND THERE IS ALREADY AN AT-GRADE CROSSING NEARBY.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG.

IT CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE/KOWLOON WEST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, 141-143 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, FIRST FLOOR, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON WHO OBJECTS TO THE WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 13 THIS YEAR.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR TAI PO ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE THIRD AND LAST STAGE OF TAI PO ROAD IMPROVEMENT - SHA TIN TO TAI WO PING INTERCHANGE.

A NOTICE FOR INVITATION TO TENDER IS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

/"THE SECTION .....

"THE SECTION OF TAI PO ROAD BETWEEN SHA TIN AND TAI WO PING INTERCHANGE IS A HEAVILY TRAFFICKED SINGLE CARRIAGEWAY ROAD LINKING THE NORTHWEST URBAN AREAS OF KOWLOON AND SHA TIN," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT IS AT PRESENT A TWO-LANE ROAD WITH NUMEROUS TIGHT BENDS ALONG ITS LENGTH.

"WORKS TO BE COVERED UNDER THE THIRD STAGE CONTRACT WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO FOOTBRIDGES AND IMPROVEMENT TO FOUR SECTIONS OF TAI PO ROAD TOTALLING ABOUT 1.7 KILOMETRES IN LENGTH."

THE FOUR SECTIONS ARE:

- \* THE SECTION ADJACENT TO LION ROCK COUNTRY PARK IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF KOWLOON GOVERNMENT EXPLOSIVE DEPOT;
- \* THE SECTION BETWEEN SHA TIN LOOKOUT AND LUK HOP VILLAGE;
- \* THE SECTION TO THE NORTH OF THE JUNCTION OF TAI PO ROAD WITH CHIK WAN STREET; AND
- \* THE SECTION BETWEEN KEUNG HAU ROAD AND SHA TIN HEIGHTS ROAD.

THESE SECTIONS WILL BE WIDENED TO A MINIMUM OF 10 METRES TO ACCOMMODATE THREE LANES.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS WILL INCLUDE REALIGNMENT OF SECTIONS OF THE ROAD ON SHARP BENDS, PROVISION OF FOOTPATHS, BUS LAY-BYS, PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES AND LANDSCAPING.

A SECTION OF THE SHA TIN HEIGHTS ROAD, ABOUT 120 METRES LONG, WILL ALSO BE REALIGNED AND REGRADED.

THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL NECESSITATE CUT SLOPE WORKS AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION OF EARTH RETAINING STRUCTURES ALONG THE ROAD.

DURING CONSTRUCTION, ALL EXISTING ACCESS POINTS TO AND FROM THE ROAD WILL BE MAINTAINED.

TWO-LANE, TWO-WAY TRAFFIC WILL OPERATE DURING THE DAY TIME, AND ANY NECESSARY SINGLE LANE OPERATIONS WILL BE RESTRICTED TO NIGHT HOURS.

THE STAGE III CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF 1989.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED ON BEHALF OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT BY HARRIS & SUTHERLAND (FAR EAST) CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

INCREASED FEES FOR DOG AND CAT DETENTION  
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THE FEES PAYABLE FOR THE DETENTION OF DOGS AND CATS IN A GOVERNMENT KENNEL WILL BE INCREASED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE INCREASES WERE PRESCRIBED IN THE DOGS AND CATS (FEES) ORDER 1988, MADE UNDER THE DOGS AND CATS ORDINANCE WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR. A NOTICE TO THIS EFFECT WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

THE EXISTING LEVEL OF FEES CHARGED FOR THE DETENTION OF A BITER DOG IN A GOVERNMENT KENNEL FOR OBSERVATION PURPOSE IS \$25 PER DAY WHILE THAT FOR THE DETENTION OF A BITER CAT IS \$10 PER DAY.

THESE FEES, WHICH HAVE BEEN IN FORCE SINCE JANUARY 1983, WILL BE REVISED TO \$65 PER DAY FOR THE FIRST SEVEN DAYS AND \$20 PER DAY THEREAFTER OR PART THEREOF FOR A BITER DOG, AND \$25 PER DAY FOR THE FIRST SEVEN DAYS AND \$10 PER DAY THEREAFTER OR PART THEREOF FOR A BITER CAT.

THE DAILY CHARGE FOR DETENTION OF AN IMPORTED DOG UNDER QUARANTINE WILL BE RAISED FROM \$20 TO \$25 PER DAY WHILE THAT IN RESPECT OF AN IMPORTED CAT WILL REMAIN AT THE EXISTING LEVEL OF \$10 PER DAY.

THE DETENTION FEE FOR STRAY DOGS AND DOGS NOT UNDER CONTROL WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$145 TO \$290 REGARDLESS OF THE DURATION OF DETENTION.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE INCREASES, THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (AGRICULTURE) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, DR NORMAN CHENG, SAID THE INCREASES WERE INTENDED TO RECOVER THE STAFF AND ACCOMMODATION COSTS INVOLVED.

"THE INCREASES IN THE FEES FOR QUARANTINE DETENTION FOR IMPORTED DOGS ARE VERY MODEST, AND THE NEW FEES ARE STILL BELOW THE RATES PREVAILING IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR," HE SAID.

DR CHENG SAID THE INCREASES IN THE FEES FOR THE DETENTION OF STRAYS AND FOR BITER DOGS AND CATS WERE COMPARATIVELY MORE SUBSTANTIAL.

"THIS IS BASED ON THE RECOVERY OF THE STAFF COSTS INVOLVED IN THE HIGHLY LABOUR INTENSIVE MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF STRAY DOGS AS PART OF A TERRITORY-WIDE EFFORT TO CONTAIN, CONTROL AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF RABIES IN HONG KONG.

"SUCH INCREASES ARE ALSO JUSTIFIED AS AN DETERRENT AGAINST DOG OWNERS ALLOWING THEIR DOGS TO ROAM ON A PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE," HE SAID.

BY LAW, ANY PERSON WHO LETS HIS DOG STRAY IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS, DR CHENG POINTED OUT.

POLICE OFFICERS HONOURED FOR SWIFT ACTION

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KWAI CHUNG POLICE OFFICERS WERE HONOURED TODAY (FRIDAY) FOR THEIR SWIFT ACTION IN SOLVING A ROBBERY CASE WHICH OCCURRED AT A TV GAMES CENTRE IN KWONG FAI CIRCUIT, KWAI CHUNG, LAST YEAR.

AT A CERMONY HELD AT THE POLICE STATION, THE PROPRIETOR PRESENTED A SILVER PLATE TO THE DISTRICT COMMANDER/KWAI CHUNG, MR EVAN EVANS, AS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION.

THE ROBBERY TOOK PLACE LAST OCTOBER WHEN TWO ARMED ROBBERS FORCED OPEN A SAFE INSIDE THE CENTRE AND MADE OFF WITH CASH AND VALUABLES TOTTALLING \$200,000.

AN EMPLOYEE IMMEDIATELY GAVE CHASE AND, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A PATROLLING POLICE OFFICER, APPREHENDED A SUSPECT IN KWAI CHUNG ESTATE. A WATCH WORTH ABOUT \$120,000 WAS LATER RECOVERED.

THE ROBBER WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SENTENCED BY THE HIGH COURT TO EIGHT YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

MEANWHILE, AT ANOTHER CEREMONY HELD AT NORTH POINT POLICE STATION TODAY, EASTERN DISTRICT DETECTIVES WERE PRAISED FOR THEIR SWIFT ACTION IN SOLVING A THEFT CASE AT A LOCAL DEPARTMENT STORE.

ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE, THE DISTRICT COMMANDER/EASTERN, MR MIKE HARPER, RECEIVED SIX SOUVENIR PLAQUES AND A BANNER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE DEPARTMENT STORE.

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KWAI TSING DB TO VISIT HOLLAND AND U.K.

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A KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD DELEGATION WILL LEAVE FOR A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO HOLLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE DELEGATION WILL VISIT THE SHELL OIL LTD. AND THE PORT OF ROTTERDAM IN HOLLAND.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE DELEGATION WILL VISIT THE HONG KONG DEPARTMENT OF THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, THE HOME OFFICE, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY AND A COUNTY COUNCIL.

DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS MR YAU HON-KEE, MR SO HOI-PAN, MR SIN CHUNG-KAI AND MR WONG YIU-CHUNG WILL JOIN THE DELEGATION. KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN COAK, WILL ACCOMPANY THE VISIT.

THE DELEGATION WILL RETURN FROM EUROPE ON JULY 29.

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SPECIAL STAMP ISSUE TO COMMEMORATE PEAK TRAMWAY CENTENARY

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A SET OF FOUR SPECIAL STAMPS TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE PEAK TRAMWAY WILL BE ISSUED ON AUGUST 4, THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE STAMPS ARE IN DENOMINATIONS OF 50 CENTS, \$1.30, \$1.70 AND \$5. A SOUVENIR SHEET CONTAINING THE FOUR STAMPS WILL ALSO BE ISSUED AT \$8.50.

IN ADDITION, PRESTIGE STAMP BOOKLETS CONTAINING THREE SOUVENIR SHEETS WILL BE PUT ON SALE ON AUGUST 25. THESE BOOKLETS WILL BE PRIZED AT \$26 EACH.

THE STAMPS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN PLAZA ON JULY 23 AND 24, AT THE PEAK TOWER FROM JULY 23 TO AUGUST 13 AND AT THE CITYPLAZA IN TAIKOO SHING ON JULY 31.

THE STAMPS WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYED AT THE PHILATELIC CENTRE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AND AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE FROM JULY 23.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS AT 50 CENTS EACH WILL BE PUT ON SALE ON JULY 21.

ADVANCE ORDERS FOR FIRST-DAY TREATMENT OF FIRST DAY COVERS AFFIXED WITH EITHER A SET OF THE STAMPS OR A SOUVENIR SHEET WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM JULY 21 TO 28 AT ALL POST OFFICES. THE MINIMUM QUANTITY PER ORDER IS FIVE.

CUSTOMERS WISHING TO AVOID CONGESTION ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE USE OF THIS ADVANCE ORDER SERVICE.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, FIRST DAY COVERS PRE-AFFIXED WITH A SET OF THE STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE SPECIAL DATESTAMP WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT DESIGNATED COUNTERS OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICES ON AUGUST 4:-

HONG KONG ISLAND  
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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE  
CAUSEWAY BAY POST OFFICE  
GENERAL POST OFFICE  
KING'S ROAD POST OFFICE  
PEAK POST OFFICE  
SAI YING PUN POST OFFICE  
TSAT TSZ MUI POST OFFICE

/KOWLOON .....

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KOWLOON  
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AIRPORT POST OFFICE  
CHEUNG SHA WAN POST OFFICE  
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE  
MONG KOK POST OFFICE  
KOWLOON BAY POST OFFICE  
KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE  
KWUN TONG POST OFFICE  
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

NEW TERRITORIES  
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SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE  
TAI PO POST OFFICE  
SHEK WU HUI POST OFFICE  
TSUEN WING STREET POST OFFICE  
TUEN MUN SAN HUI POST OFFICE  
YUEN LONG POST OFFICE

THE "SERVICED" FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE SOLD AT \$10 EACH.

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ENROLMENT INVITED FOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE COURSES

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THE EIGHT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL ARE NOW INVITING FORM 3 AND FORM 5 LEAVERS TO APPLY FOR ENTRY INTO ABOUT 200 FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME COURSES SCHEDULED IN THE 1988-89 ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE COURSES ARE DUE TO COMMENCE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER AND COVER A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS.

THESE INCLUDE HOTEL-KEEPING AND TOURISM STUDIES, COMMERCIAL STUDIES, CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, GENERAL STUDIES, INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY, PRINTING, AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

THE SUBJECTS ALSO COVER CLOTHING INDUSTRIES, MARINE ENGINEERING AND FABRICATION, DESIGN, APPLIED SCIENCE, COMPUTING STUDIES AND MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINEERING.

THE COUNCIL WILL INTRODUCE A NUMBER OF NEW COURSES IN THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR.

/THESE INCLUDE .....

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THESE INCLUDE COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING, COMPUTING STUDIES (COMMUNICATIONS), BASIC TEXTILE TECHNICIAN (FABRIC PRODUCTION), AND AN INTRODUCTION TO PRINT FINISHING.

THE COURSES ALSO COVER AN INTRODUCTION TO BASIC WELDING CRAFT STUDIES, AND ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS REQUIREMENTS.

THESE FULL-TIME, PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE AND BLOCK-RELEASE COURSES WILL BE OFFERED AT THE MORRISON HILL, KWAI CHUNG, KWUN TONG, HAKING WONG, LEE WAI LEE, TUEN MUN, SHA TIN AND CHAI WAN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

THE COURSES ARE OFFERED AT CRAFT AND TECHNICIAN LEVELS, FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE COMPLETED FORM 3 AND THOSE WHO HAVE OBTAINED GRADE E IN A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS IN THE HKCE EXAMINATION RESPECTIVELY.

APPLICANTS FOR PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE AND BLOCK-RELEASE COURSES HAVE TO BE SPONSORED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS.

DETAILS OF THE COURSES WILL BE ADVERTISED IN NEWSPAPERS TOMORROW (SATURDAY). APPLICATION FORMS AND GUIDES TO APPLICANTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND DISTRICT OFFICES.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR PART-TIME COURSES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE APPRENTICESHIP SECTION OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENROLMENT IS AUGUST 16.

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#### MUSICIANS ARRIVE FOR MUSIC CAMP

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THREE OVERSEAS MUSICIANS ARRIVED TODAY (FRIDAY) TO TAKE PART IN THIS YEAR'S HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP TO BE HELD AT THE PO LEUNG KUK PAK TAM CHUNG HOLIDAY CAMP IN SAI KUNG FROM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) TO JULY 31.

THEY ARE MR JUNICHI MORITAKE FROM JAPAN, MR JOHN FORSTER FROM BRITAIN AND MR TIMOTHY LANDAUER FROM THE UNITED STATES.

MR MORITAKE IS AT PRESENT A TRUMPET PLAYER WITH JAPAN'S SHIZUOKA BRASS ORCHESTRA AND AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE BAND DIRECTOR ASSOCIATION.

/MR FORSTER .....

MR FORSTER IS A PROFESSOR AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC IN LONDON WHERE HE GIVES CONDUCTING CLASSES. DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS, HIS WORK HAS TAKEN HIM TO FRANCE, ITALY, GERMANY, AUSTRIA, HOLLAND, LUXEMBOURG, YUGOSLAVIA, HONG KONG AND THE GULF STATES.

CELLIST MR LANDAUER HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF PRESTIGIOUS PRIZES AND AWARDS. IN 1985, HE WAS NAMED THE OUTSTANDING TRAINEE OF THE YEAR UPON RECEIVING HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

TWO OTHER CHINESE MUSICIANS, MR TANG LIANGZHOU, A MASTER IN PLUCKED STRINGS AND MR SHEN LILIANG, A MASTER IN HUQIN, WILL ARRIVE TOMORROW.

DURING THE CAMP PERIOD, THEY WILL CONDUCT MASTERCLASSES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS.

THE MUSIC CAMP IS ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH TO PROVIDE INTENSIVE MUSIC TRAINING TO YOUNG MUSICIANS AND TO FOSTER INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE THROUGH MUSIC.

A FINALE CONCERT FEATURING THE CAMP'S STRING ORCHESTRA AND SYMPHONIC BAND WILL BE HELD AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL ON JULY 30 AT 7.30 PM.

THE REPERTOIRE INCLUDES HINDEMITH'S FIVE PIECES IN FIRST POSITION, TCHAIKOVSKY'S SERENADE FOR STRINGS IN C MAJOR, WALTERS' BANDS AROUND THE WORLD AND OTHER POPULAR PIECES.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AT \$5 AND \$10 EACH ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING URBIX OUTLETS; CITY HALL, QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, SPACE MUSEUM, HONG KONG COLISEUM, NGAU CHI WAN CIVIC CENTRE, TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, SHA TIN TOWN HALL, TUEN MUN TOWN HALL, HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND TOM LEE MUSIC CO. LTD.

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POLICE CHOIR TO ENTERTAIN CHILDREN AND ELDERLY

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CHILDREN AND ELDERLY PEOPLE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO LISTEN TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE CHOIR IN CONCERT ON SUNDAY (JULY 17).

THE CONCERT, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LIONS CLUB OF SOUTH KOWLOON AND THE POLICE CHOIR, WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE AT 8 PM.

THE TWO-HOUR PERFORMANCE BY THE 50-MEMBER CHOIR IS BEING SPECIALLY ORGANISED TO ENTERTAIN CHILDREN UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF PO LEUNG KUK AND A GROUP OF ELDERLY PEOPLE FROM A CHARITABLE ORGANISATION.

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BUS RE-ROUTEING AND OPENING OF RIGHT-TURN MOVEMENTS  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT KMB ROUTE NO. 24K PLYING BETWEEN KAI YIP AND MONG KOK KCR STATION WILL BE DIVERTED IN ITS ROUTEINGS FROM MONDAY (JULY 18) TO IMPROVE ITS OPERATING EFFICIENCY.

ON ITS JOURNEYS TO KAI YIP, BUSES ON THAT ROUTE WILL TRAVEL VIA SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, ARGYLE STREET AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST, WITHOUT PASSING THROUGH LUEN WAN STREET LEADING TO THE MONG KOK KCR STATION.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING BUS STOP OF THE ROUTE IN LUEN WAN STREET TO THE SOUTH OF THE ESCALATORS LEADING TO AND FROM THE MONG KOK KCR STATION WILL BE CANCELLED. AFFECTED PASSENGERS WILL HAVE TO USE THE BUS STOP IN SAI YEE STREET NEAR QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL.

MEANWHILE, IN KWUN TONG, VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO MAKE RIGHT TURNS FROM HIP WO STREET SOUTHBOUND ONTO WAN HON STREET WESTBOUND FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY.

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TRAFFIC LANES ON TAI PO ROAD TO BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY  
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A 200-METRE LONG SECTION OF THE SLOW AND MIDDLE LANES OF TAI PO ROAD NORTHBOUND NEAR TOLO HIGHWAY IN SHA TIN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR FIVE DAYS, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE LANE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE THE MAINTENANCE OF A WEIGHBRIDGE ON THAT ROAD SECTION. IT WILL BE IN FORCE DAILY BETWEEN 8 AM AND 8 PM FROM JULY 18 (MONDAY) TO 22 (FRIDAY).

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE. APPROPRIATE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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